## Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management Office of Communications

Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

News and Information For Immediate Release

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## <u>Campsite Fee Increase For Lower Deschutes</u>

PRINEVILLE, OR--Campsite fees for Bureau of Land Management vehicle accessible sites on the Lower Deschutes River will increase starting May 1, 2002. The current fee levels were set in 1997 with all fee revenues supporting the management of facilities along the river. The increase is needed to offset costs of site improvements and maintenance. Most of the drive-in recreation sites are being upgraded with fire rings.

Campsite fees vary depending on season and whether the site is an individual or group site. Site fees increase on peak use weekends, Friday and Saturday, from June 1 to September 15. The increase helps cover additional costs associated with necessary campsite monitoring and law enforcement. The fees for individual sites will increase from \$5 to \$8 for non-peak weekends and from \$10 to \$12 for peak weekends. Group sites will increase from \$15 to \$25 for non-peak weekends and from \$30 to \$35 for peak weekends.

"As land managers, we are reluctant to increase recreation fees for public lands facilities. However, in order to keep these sites up to an acceptable standard that meets public health concerns and safety, it is necessary for us to do so," said Tom Mottl, Outdoor Recreation Planner with the Prineville Bureau of Land Management.

For additional information on the Lower Deschutes management program contact Lynette Ripley at 541-416-6781.